

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Norm Needleman and Representative David Arconti, Ranking Members Senator Paul Formica and Representative Charles Ferraro, and Committee Members:

RE: S.B. 176 An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities

Date: 3/1/22

- Please amend SB 176 to increase the cap on commercial solar from 50 to 100 megawatts (MW) and the cap on Shared Clean Energy Facilities from 25 to 50 megawatts.
- To meet its clean energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals, Connecticut must deploy large amounts of local solar and storage.
- Unnecessary and outdated CT regulations have resulted in many municipalities and businesses not being able to reduce their electric costs via installing solar. • Connecticut residents overwhelmingly support increased solar in the state.
- Connecticut is failing to help its constituents **do the right thing** to improve public health and meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Local solar and storage create a more resilient and lower-cost electric grid, is a powerful tool to advance energy equity - increasing it will benefit underserved populations.
- Commercial solar is sited on a business's premises and reduces the need to take up farmland or woodlands. Building these resources represents a significant economic opportunity for businesses in the state, creating local jobs and stimulating economic development
- **Please correct this problem this session by amending S.B. 176 to increase the cap on commercial solar from 50 to 100 MW and the cap on Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) from 25 to 50 MW.** Raising these program caps can be done at negligible, short-term ratepayer cost.

Thank you,

Shirley McCarthy, MD, PhD

Professor, Yale School of Medicine

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee